

**Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)
Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)
WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE
SITUATION REPORT # 15
1230 Hours October 22, 2005**

New Information in Bold Italics

***Next Conference Call is scheduled for Monday, October 24, 2005, 0930 hours
Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1000 hours daily***

WEATHER

Forecast: ***Southwest VA: Mostly cloudy with 30% chance of showers throughout the day. High temperatures in the low 60's, West winds less than 10 MPH. Tonight - 30% chance of showers overnight, Low temperatures in the upper 30's, West winds 5 to 10 MPH.***
NWS Morristown has posted the Latest Hydrologic Outlook Statement on their home page - <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/MRX/ESFMRX>

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

State of Emergency: On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage.

Executive Order 99 (2005) has been amended to impose an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap, effective immediately and continuing until such time as local officials advise the Governor it should be lifted.

Local Situation: **Local Emergency Declared:** Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

STATE AGENCIES

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

A VDEM Hazardous Materials Officer is coordinating with Wise County, the Town of Big Stone Gap, and state/local agencies to identify needed resources and continue logistical support. A VDEM Reservist is on site at the Wise County Command Post to assist with logistics and finance.

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies and compiling a list of available resources.

The VEOC is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Receiving reports daily from Big Stone Gap Water Treatment Plant on water monitoring from blivets and other stored water supplies.

VDH reports 11 cases of Chicken Pox at the Big Stone primary and middle schools. A letter was sent home with students on Friday, October 21 advising parents/guardians of chicken pox and advising unvaccinated children who have not had the disease to consult health care providers about vaccination.

The Environmental Health Specialist visited all permitted food establishments on Friday, October 21, to verify compliance with boil notice, review plans submitted, follow-up with facilities that have not yet submitted plans to verify

their intentions, and to emphasize adherence to water testing for those with storage tanks.

Virginia National Guard (VNG)

The VNG continues distribution and blivet support mission. ***Eleven*** blivets are placed at the following locations: one at each of the three public schools, one at the Hospital, one at the Nursing Home, one serving the community college/DMME, one at the Special Needs Shelter, two supporting the Portable Water Processing Plants, ***and two supporting the Powell River Cave #1 pumping operation. The 350-gpm pump at the cave site is pumping water as scheduled. Fifteen soldiers remain on mission.***

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Monitoring Powell River water flow.

Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)

The VDOC is refilling blivets daily.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

VDOT has 4 message boards in the Big Stone Gap area.

A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water.

Department of General Services/Consolidated Labs

Testing of the Clinch Haven Farm well was conducted and results relayed to the VDH and Town of Big Stone Gap.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The VDOF has signs in place notifying residents of the burn ban.

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME)

DMME Geologist advised officials they are pumping water from the Powell River Cave #1 not the Hairy Hole Cave. Powell River Cave #1 receives it water from the Powell River and once the reservoir is empty the cave will dry up.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Local, county and state personnel will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, October 24 to: 1) identify key issues; 2) re-evaluate taskings; and 3) discuss short and long-range plans.

Test results on the Town of Appalachia connection are expected by Monday, October 24.

The second package plant is operational and water samples were collected October 21 and test results are anticipated on Monday, October 24.

Powell River Cave #1 continues pumping water during daytime hours.

Additional testing of the Clinch Haven Farms well is required. Testing will resume the week of October 24.

The Virginia Rural Water Association circuit riders identified several leaks in the water supply system. Repairs were made to the leaks for a substantial water savings. Ongoing detection for leaks in the system continues.

Potable bottled water now staged at the Big Stone Gap National Guard Armory will be relocated to a vacant building in Wise on Sunday, October 23 and Monday, October 24.

Permanent connection is complete from the Norton/ Big Stone Gap water line. The system is providing 100,000 gallon per day.

The Town identified a spring, Parsons Cave, near water treatment plant as a resource to serve as a back-up supply system. Water samples are to be collected October 24.

The Town of Big Stone Gap plans to issue a public service announcement requesting residencies and businesses continue conserving water.

Wise County's Sheriff department guarding blivets daily with increased patrol the weekend of 30-31 Oct. 05.

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